

Dec '88

INSERT FOR WORLD WIDE BRIEFING, page 11 bottom.

Before moving to other topics, let me make a general point about Gorbachev's USSR. Many of the developments I've dwelt upon are new and promising, promising of a freer life for Soviet citizens and a more harmonious relationship with the outside world. But we must be clear that almost none of these positive developments are certain of fulfillment or irreversible. Gorbachev may not succeed and we are not even sure what his success might mean. The state ruled from Moscow has, over several centuries, seen several periods of dramatic reform...and then emerged the same as before: autocratic, paranoid and hostile to the West, backward but powerful enough to threaten its neighbors. Whether this will now finally change for good, we cannot know.

Now let me give a quick update on the situation in Afghanistan. ....

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*Dec 88*

Here are some questions I'll need to know the answers to, mostly for background, [redacted]

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What is the Soviet attitude toward India's and Pakistan's nuclear programs?  
What has Moscow said to us or to them about the programs?

What have we said, if anything, to the Soviets about these programs?

What is the current level of Soviet military transfers to India? What are the latest major deals? What do we see impending?

Do we expect Moscow to seek a military supply relationship with Pakistan after the Afghan war ends? What major items would Moscow propose to sell? And what would be Pakistan's interest? [If the experts answer "no" to all this, remind them of a)Yakovlev's reported offer to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, and b) Soviet need for hard currency.]

What has been the Soviet attitude toward territorial disputes in the Sino-Pak-Indian relationship?

How has Moscow reacted to Sino-Indian developments lately?

What do we know about Gorbachev's personal relationship with Rajiv?

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